

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM  
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)  
PROJECT FACT SHEET  
OCTOBER 1993  
HNC REVISION: 25 JULY 1997  
TAG REVIEW DATE: 27 AUGUST 1997  
HNC REVISION: 18 AUGUST 1998  
SECOND TAG REVIEW DATE: 27 OCTOBER 1998**

1. **SITE NAME:** Mitchel Field

**SITE NUMBER:** C02NY064500

**LOCATION:**

**CITY:** Garden City  
**COUNTY:** Nassau  
**STATE:** New York

**PROJECT NUMBER:** C02NY064503

**CATEGORY:** OE

**INPR RAC:** 2

**ASR RAC:** 2

**TAG RAC:** 5

2. **POC'S:**

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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** The former Mitchel Field consisted of 1,437.45 acres and is located due east of Garden City, which is a suburb of Hempstead, in the central part of Nassau County on Long Island, New York. The site is located at Latitude 41° 43' 30"

North and Longitude 73° 36' 30" West. The site is currently used for a variety of purposes and is for the most part developed. The site is urbanized with major portions of the site occupied and developed by Hofstra University, Nassau Community College, the Coliseum (home of the New York Islanders professional hockey team), and the Mitchel Sports Complex for amateur athletics. Several portions of the site have been used for highway/parkway construction. There are also two undeveloped tracts which are designated as park preserves and/or ecological areas. A tract of undeveloped land in the extreme southeast corner of the former site is available for development, but nothing is planned for this area at this time.

The site terrain is on a gently rolling, slightly dissected and southward sloping plain. Surface water most likely runs into East Meadow Brook Creek which carries runoff water to the estuaries of the south shore. Most of the runoff on paved surfaces in recently developed areas is recharged into the ground water system by routing it into dug pits or recharge basins. Average winter temperature is 33° F and the summer average is 72°.

**4. SITE HISTORY:** The ASR states that acquisition of the site occurred from 1917 to 1959. Real Estate records indicate that this installation consisted of 1,436.72 acres of which there were 1,168.90 acres fee, 181.67 acres easement, 7.08 acres license and 79.07 acres lease. However, in the ASR description of disposals, an additional 0.60 acres easement and 0.13 acres license is noted for a total of 1,437.45 acres. Two tracts are still utilized by DOD agencies, namely 87.83 acres that were transferred to the Department of the Navy and 4.30 acres that were transferred to the Department of the Army. The DERP-FUDS site acreage is therefore 1,345.32 acres.

The area known as Mitchel Field has a history of being a site for troop encampments since the Revolutionary War. At that time, it was known as Hempstead Plains and served as an Army enlistment center. In the War of 1812 and the Mexican War a training center for infantry units existed. It was known as Camp Winfield Scott during the Civil War, Camp Black during the Spanish American War, and as Hazelhurst Field in 1915. The Rainbow (42nd) Division trained there during WW I on grounds known as Camp Mills, adjacent to the Mitchel Field site. The area was formally leased by the Government on 1 July 1917 for the Aeronautical General Supply Depot and Concentration Camp from the Hempstead Plains Company. On 16 July 1918, the installation was renamed for Major J.P. Mitchel, reclassified as an active flying

field, and eventually became the home of observation, bombardment and pursuit groups.

Concrete and steel hangers, multi-storied brick barracks and administration buildings were built in the late 1920's. During WW II, mobilization type barracks were erected so that 4,000 men could be housed. In the late 1930's and during WW II, Mitchel Field was a training base with jurisdiction over several subposts. Headquarters, 1st Air Force, was quartered at Mitchel Field in 1941 with responsibilities for training, organizing, and sending tactical air units overseas into combat. Planes at the field also engaged in anti-sub patrol missions.

The installation remained open and active until flight training was suspended between 1960 and 1961. Mitchel Field was officially deactivated in April 1961. Disposal actions occurred over a period of years. Between 1943 and 1944, 7.08 acres license were terminated and 79.07 acres lease were terminated between 1944 and 1961. A 0.60 acre easement was reported excess to the General Services Administration (GSA) on 15 April 1952 and conveyed by GSA to the Incorporated Village Garden City by quitclaim deed dated 2 July 1952. On 19 June 1961, 1,076.77 acres fee, 181.67 acres easement, and 0.13 acres license were reported excess to GSA with the following actions occurring: 135 acres fee conveyed by the Department of Health Education and Welfare (HEW) to the County of Nassau by quitclaim deed dated 19 October 1962; 88.01 acres fee conveyed by HEW to Hofstra University by quitclaim deed dated 19 October 1962; 22.0 acres fee conveyed by HEW to the Roman Catholic Diocese by quitclaim deed dated 29 November 1962; 5.15 acres fee conveyed by HEW to Long Island University by quitclaim deed dated 23 January 1963; 435.08 acres fee conveyed by GSA to the County of Nassau by quitclaim deed dated 27 June 1963; 4.54 acres fee conveyed by HEW to the Hebrew Academy of Nassau County by quitclaim deed dated 6 April 1964; and GSA assumed accountability for 386.99 acres fee, 181.67 acres easements, and 0.13 acres license on 1 July 1964. Secretarial Transfer of 87.83 acres fee to the Navy occurred between 1962 and 1969 and 4.30 acres fee to the Army on 4 January 1962. Disposal of land for which GSA received accountability on 1 July 1964 was as follows: conveyed 374.49 acres fee, 9.49 acres easement, and 0.13 acres license by three quitclaim deeds to the County of Nassau between 1970 and 1979. GSA retains 171.58 acres for easements on the western boundary line of the property (The 9.49 easement and this latter 171.58 easement equals 181.07 acres which is 0.60 less than the 181.67 formerly mentioned.)

**5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

**AREA:** Entire Site  
**Size, Acres:** 1,345.32  
**Former Use:** Army Air Field--including ammunition storage areas and a firing range  
**Present Use:** Parking lots, park, sports stadiums, universities, vacant tracts and urbanized development  
**Probable End Use:** Parking lots, park, sports stadiums, universities, vacant tracts and urbanized development (further development is probable but not planned at this time)  
**Ordinance Presence:** None

**6. CURRENT STATUS:** The Archives Search Report (ASR) for Mitchel Field was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in October 1993.

**7. STRATEGY:** No Further Action (NOFA), RAC 5

**8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:** The TAG met on 27 October 1998, discussed the ESI conducted on 20-21 April 1998, and agreed with the recommendations of a strategy of RAC 5 NOFA.

An Expanded Site Inspection (ESI) was performed on 20-21 April 1998 by Messrs. Kevin Healy, Lead Engineer, and Michael Slovak, Safety Specialist, of the Huntsville Center. The undeveloped areas were walked over using magnetometers with no intrusive activities performed (See attached Trip Report). Recommend the Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group (TAG) determine RAC 5 NOFA for this site. It is further recommended that the current landowners be advised that, during any future construction, contractors be apprised of the nature of this former site and the past incidences of OE/OE-related scrap location. UXO construction support (by qualified UXO companies), whereby qualified UXO personnel are on-site in case OE is uncovered, might also be recommended.

The TAG recommended an ESI on 27 August 1997 because approximately 97 percent of the former site is developed with only four mortars found as a result. The ESI would basically be concerned with those limited areas which are not yet developed. There are two natural/ecological areas that have not been developed and an area in the vicinity of the former firing range that is undeveloped. The exact acreage of these undeveloped areas could not be determined given the information in the ASR. The ASR author obtained four reports from the Nassau County

Police Department in which one 60mm inert round and three "live" 81mm rounds were found at different locations during development of the site in the early 1980's. These finds were widely separated, not in the general vicinity of the former ammunition storage areas and are generally located in the southwest quadrant of the site. No pattern is evident. In interviews, mention was made that the Marines fired mortars at the site. The ASR states that the rifle range was in the southeast area of the site and east of the runways where baseball fields, commercial buildings and residential areas are now located.

**HNC Safety/RCWM Comments:** He recommended that the site be carried as a conventional ordnance project and not as a chemical warfare material project. The ASR mentions historical presence of smoke and riot control items as well as the M1 Training Kits. "In that the glass vials that contain agent can not be detected by present technology, recommend this be converted to a conventional ordnance project with mention of the possible discovery of M1 kits."

**Natural Resources:** Federally and State threatened species occur within the site area and are listed in ASR Findings, page 4-5, para 4.5. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities.

**Historical Resources:** The ASR did not indicate if historical/cultural resources were found to be present at the site. Any intrusive measures taken within the area will require oversight by the State Historical Preservation Office and/or other like organizations.

**9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY:** NOFA

**10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY:** N/A